



July 2019

Heartbeat

Message from the LMC Chair

PCNs have now formally established and as at 1 July 2019 there are 18 across Cheshire. NHSE and the CCGs are providing additional training to Clinical Leaders of PCNs.

As an LMC we are providing a one-off event on 17 September to explore the next stage for PCNs - looking at how PCNs will express themselves, make links with the wider system development, the NHS Long Term Plan and planning ahead for 2020 and beyond. We have approached number of eminent speakers to attend.

Items which will be addressed include :

What is your PCN starting to develop both “mandatory” and “optional”?

PCNs in a Changing Landscape: What you need to know about future CCG and ICP Plans.

Local PCNs will share their recent work and knowledge - this will be a great opportunity for networking.

A '[Save the Date](#)' has recently been circulated to all practices with information to an essential one-off event.

Stephen Kaye
LMC Chair

PCNs

How can Federations help Primary Care Networks?

Amongst all the furore that primary care networks are creating it is easy to lose sight of GP federations. The role of federations in the new world of primary care networks is unclear and not prescribed. So do they really have a future? If they do, what will it be?

How federations could help the nascent primary care networks meet four of the biggest challenges they face. [Read more](#)

PM View: My tips on how to kick-start your PCN

As of 1 July, primary care networks (PCNs) are now live across England. PCNs are groups of practices and other primary care professionals that cover between 30,000 and 50,000 patients.

GP practices have been kept abreast of PCN-related deadlines through multiple channels and most English GP practices are now part of a PCN.

According to NHS England, as of 27 June there were 1,259 networks. Those networks will have by now ticked all the boxes to start receiving national investment, but is there anything else they need to think about to kick-start their PCN right?

In the second article Management in Practice, in a series of how to kick-start your PCN, Denise Smith, practice manager at Merepark Medical Centre in Alsager, Cheshire and practice manager lead of the SMASH (Sandbach, Middlewich, Alsager, Scholar Green, Haslington) PCN, shares her tips on [what steps PCNs can take in their early days to ensure success.](#)

DPO statement from NHS England

Following significant engagement from GPC over the last few weeks, and in response to several LMCs and practices which are experiencing issues on this matter, please see below message that has gone out to CCGs from NHS England:

GP Practice and CCG Responsibilities for Data Protection Officers (DPO)

Since April 2018, CCGs have been required to provide IG advice and DPO support to practices. The new [GP contract](#) announced that this mandatory requirement would be extended.

In 2019, CCGs are required to offer a Data Protection Officer (DPO) function to practices in addition to their existing DPO support services. This DPO function can be provided by the CCG direct or through its commissioning support service. Funding has been made available in CCGs' baseline to support this requirement. The new Primary Care (GP) Digital Services Operating Model, due to be published in July, includes detail about CCGs' responsibilities. The requirements are as follows:

Mandatory Requirements for CCGs

1. IG advice and Data Protection Officer (DPO) Support:

- Provision of advice, guidance and support on IG related issues including existing operational processes and procedures or new business initiatives to support practice designated Data Protection Officers including existing operational processes and procedures or new business initiatives. This includes:
 - Access for practices during normal service hours to specialist qualified advice on GDPR matters;
 - Advice on compliance with GDPR obligations;
 - Advice reflecting national guidance on GDPR compliance as it is published;
 - A review at least annually to identify and improve processes which have caused breaches or near misses, or which force practice staff to use workarounds which compromise data security. This may for example be a facilitated workshop at CCG level which would encourage shared learning;
 - Advice to support practices develop and maintain best practice processes that comply with national guidance on citizen identity verification;
 - Advice to support practices achieve mandatory compliance with the [National Data Opt-Out](#) policy by March 2020.

2. DPO Function (New requirement from April 2019):

- As data controllers and “public authorities” general practices are legally required to designate a DPO.
- CCGs are now required to provide a named DPO for practices to designate as their Data Protection Officer. The named DPO could be shared between practices.
- Practices may choose to make their own DPO arrangements. CCGs are not expected to fund alternative arrangements, if a DPO service has already been offered by the CCG. However a CCG may at its discretion offer to fund these alternative arrangements.

Joint plan to improve health and care across Cheshire

For the first time the four NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across Cheshire have developed a joint plan to bring together the planning, buying and monitoring of health services across the county.

A single operational plan for Cheshire in 2019/20, aligned to proposals to create a single Cheshire CCG, outlines local plans to improve patient care in line with the NHS Long Term Plan.

A user-friendly 16-page summary, entitled [Our Plan](#), has also been published to support and encourage the involvement of local patients in the work of the four CCGs – Eastern Cheshire, South Cheshire, Vale Royal and West Cheshire.



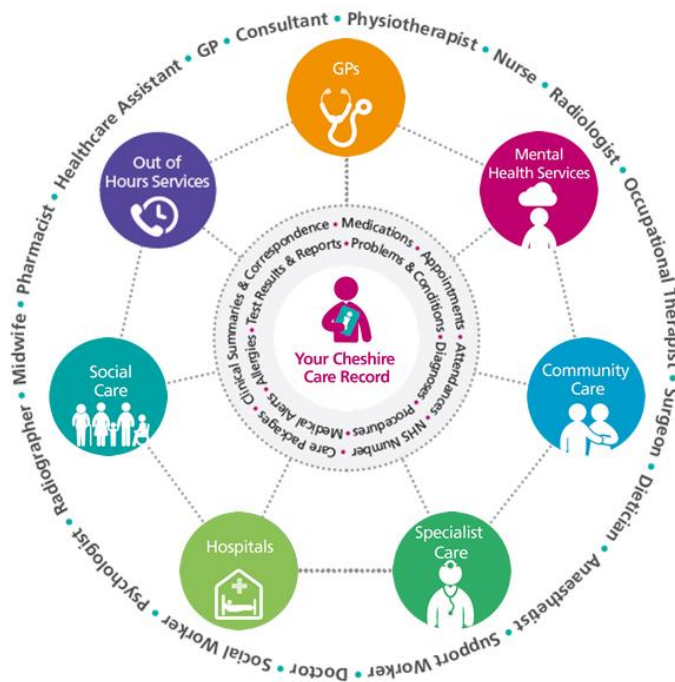
Enabling the Cheshire Care Record with the new Data Sharing Agreement

Sharing records between organisations is getting easier. Clinicians in A+E can already see GP and other records to allow safer, more efficient and appropriate care, sometimes making it easier for patients to be discharged without the need for admission. With GDPR it has been confirmed that record sharing for Clinical Care does not need Clinicians to ask consent directly so long as there are Data Sharing Agreements in place. This is often very helpful for patients with Dementia who can't give consent or a medical history.

The Cheshire Care Record Team has been working on a new Data Sharing Agreement which has been updated in line with the GDPR. Practices have previously signed a Data Sharing Agreement, but all Cheshire GP Practices have been sent these new Data Sharing Agreements to sign to enable sharing in line with the new regulations. The Cheshire Care Record Team involves your local hospitals as well as Clatterbridge and Christies, CCGs, Council, Mental Health and Community Services Providers who want to help support their staff to manage patient care in hours and out of hours with all relevant information.

GP Practices can help not only by signing these Data Sharing Agreements but also encouraging Patients to be aware that their records are available to colleagues for out of hours care. Patients needing End of Life Care are some of the most likely to benefit as the Cheshire Care Record shows EPaCCS codes from all teams in one place, and also shows the Clinicians and Services currently

involved with their patient’s care. For more information about Cheshire EPaCCS (Electronic Palliative Care Coordination Systems) look up <http://www.cheshire-epaige.nhs.uk/>



The Information Governance Committee ensures that monthly Audits are ongoing to confirm appropriate use and Practices are provided with these by the team. The Clinical Design Authority also meets to help improve how the information is viewed in the Cheshire Care Record. If you have any suggestions please email Mark Elson and Dr Dan Jones at mark.elson@nhs.net. If you would like to speak to Mark about the Data Sharing Agreement please email him to arrange a call. For more information follow this link <https://www.cheshirecarerecord.co.uk/>

Indemnity – paid for travel vaccinations no longer covered by CNSGP

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS Resolution (NHSR) have confirmed a **change in cover** provided by CNSGP, with the supply and administration of paid for travel vaccinations no longer included. Previously the published scope of CNSGP included the supply and administration vaccinations where patients are directly charged. DHSC and NHS England have stated that this information was not correct and have apologised for this error.

DHSC and NHSE have committed to ensure that any general practice staff who were administering travel vaccinations and immunisations (where patients were charged a fee) and who understood themselves to be covered under the CNSGP for such activities, are not financially at a disadvantage as a result of any claim, or potential claim, against them as a consequence of relying on the incorrect information. In order to mitigate any risk to the health of patients, NHSR will provide assistance in relation to any claim for clinical negligence for the supply and administration of privately funded travel vaccinations for the period between 1 April and 31 July 2019.

General practice staff should contact NHSR to access support for such claims. Claims relating to the supply and administration of any travel vaccinations or immunisations (where the patient is required to pay) provided outside of this period should be reported to your medical defence organisation or indemnity provider.

Commenting on the change of scope, Mark Sanford-Wood, GPC England deputy chair, said “We are concerned that this decision has been made so early in the evolution of the new GP indemnity scheme. It will have clear implications for practices, who may face little choice but to decide to stop providing non-NHS funded travel vaccinations as a result. We have raised this concern with DHSC and highlighted the potential public health risk that may result. It was very unhelpful that this change was announced on the NHS Resolution website without consultation or the profession being notified, and this has been fed back very clearly to DHSC and NHS Resolution.

We welcome the decision to confirm that all travel vaccinations will be covered under CNSGP until the end of July, and would urge practices to consider carefully the services they deliver after that date and ensure all of their staff are fully indemnified for all services which they continue to provide.” [Read the MDU statement here](#) and this was also reported by [GP online](#).

Information Note for GP Practices: Mis-selling of Fixed Rate Loans & Interest Rate Swaps

Following a number of enquiries, the GPDF commissioned an [Information Note](#) from its legal advisers.

A copy of the note is for your use and for that of your constituents. When you use the note, the GPDF would be grateful if you would acknowledge their role in its procurement and ensure that it is clear that other legal advisers are available, and that appropriate professional advice is taken.

Practice Manager Development Programme 2019/20

Tuesday 23 July 2019 (session 3)



Cheshire LMC in association with
Primary Care Commissioning

This session will provide you with established tools to support
the leadership of your practice through change

Venue: Nunsmere Hall Hotel

9:30am Registration and refreshments

10:00am - 4:00pm

Lunch and refreshments provided.

There are a few places remaining

TO BOOK EMAIL jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk

Session 3 Part one – Developing emotional intelligence
Part two – Managing change

This session will provide you with established tools to support the leadership of your practice through change.

You can view the remaining programme dates here for your diary! [here](#)

LMC Pastoral Care Support

We relaunched our pastoral care scheme in April 2018. It is available to any GP working in a Cheshire practice. As the pressures within practices ever increase, there is a growing need for this.

Our Pastoral Network has been in existence for a number of years. It is made up of experienced advisors, who are current or recently retired GPs, available and trained to provide personal and confidential support to any local GP undergoing any kind of personal difficulty or crisis.

The personal difficulties which could give rise to a request for our advisors' services include:

- Domestic or family matters, such as a marriage break-up or bereavement
- Professional matters, like being subject to a patient complaint, performance review investigation or referral to the GMC
- A breakdown in relationships at work, with professional partners, employers or staff

- Health problems ranging from coping with a disability or depression, to serious mental health problems, or an addiction to drugs or alcohol

Nature of help provided

Our pastoral advisors may offer telephone advice, but will also be happy to meet with the doctor needing help, and where appropriate, others concerned about their welfare. Their objective is to help the doctor in question get through the crisis. They will provide confidential advice, interceding where appropriate, with other agencies on the doctor's behalf, or signposting them to other sources of help and advice.

We welcome all practical measures to support GPs. Please also remember that the LMC is always available to provide GPs with a listening ear, to provide pastoral support and to support GPs in relation to performance matters.

Contact via the LMC office: Tel: 01244 313483

Wellbeing for GPs: Advice for newly-qualified GPs

Dr Anish Kotecha offers new GPs some practical tips on how to ensure their wellbeing during the transition from training to independent practice.

Making the transition from a GP trainee to an independent practitioner can be daunting. The day after completion of training, all of a sudden new GPs are let free into the working world and have lost that support of their GP trainer and the program directors from their vocational training scheme.

[This article](#) hopes to provide doctors with some practical tips and tools to ensure their wellbeing during this often-unstable phase.

Calling All Cheshire GPs

We still have a small number of vacancies on the Committee for representatives from Eastern Cheshire, South Cheshire and Vale Royal (and one for Ellesmere Port). Having completed the election process we can co-opt any additional members if we feel they have knowledge or a special interest area which is of particular value to the LMC. Contact William Greenwood wgreenwood@cheshirelmc.org.uk LMC Chief Executive if you would like an informal discussion as to what is involved.

Sessional GP Subcommittee's Newsletters

Read the latest Sessional GP Newsletter [here](#)

Read the latest GP Trainee Newsletter [here](#)

BMA Model Locum-Practice agreement

[The locum practice agreement](#) has been developed jointly by GPC and the sessional GP subcommittee with the help of BMA Law. It consists of terms and conditions and a work schedule which together form a legal contract that can be used by locum GPs and GP practices for locum engagements.

It is intended to minimise common disputes between locums and practices and clearly outline the type of work that will be undertaken by a locum when working at a practice. It is also intended to protect against locums being categorised as an employee or worker by HMRC for tax purposes or by an employment tribunal for the purposes of statutory employment protection, as well as ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place for compliance with GDPR.



TRUSTED TO SAVE GP PRACTICES TIME & MONEY

Update!

It has been brought to our attention that some member practices are not aware of recent changes to the list of LMC Buying Group [approved suppliers](#).

New Approved Supplier on Board

[Scan House](#), who specialise in the scanning of paper documentation to electronic format and provide a dedicated document archiving and records management solutions, became an LMC Buying Group approved supplier on 1 April 2019. In addition to scanning paper documents to electronic format, they also offer back scanning services for practices wanting to digitise all paper records.

If you are looking for a cost-effective and reliable solution to digitising and storage of medical records, you can get a bespoke solution from Scan House. As a member of the LMC Buying Groups Federation, you will receive a discount on all their services.

For more information about Scan House and their records management solutions simply visit their page on our website. You can also contact the LMC Buying Groups Federation directly and discuss any queries you have with a member of the team. Alternatively, request a FREE consultation from Scan House today, by completing this [form](#).

Important Footnote:

There have been a number of GP and practice manager's changes recently. Thank you to all those practices that have kept us informed of these.

If there have been any GP/Locum/Salaried GP/Practice Manager staff changes within your practice could you please email Julie Hughes @ jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk with an update.

It's particularly important the LMC has the most up to date practice contact and email information for your practice as the fast paced changes brought about by the new contract mean we are issuing up to date guidance and advice. You risk missing this if we do not have your up to date contact details on our register.

Please do share the LMC newsletter as widely as possible through email and social media. We also value your suggestions about the format, future articles or what you might like the LMC to provide for its members.

This is notification of the date of the LMC Annual General Meeting Wednesday 20 November 2019, further details to be confirmed. If you are interested in attending this meeting please contact jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk